

WHAT'S NEW!

DNRC Conservation Districts Bureau

Apr 2008

Administrators... please share this with your supervisors! Also, Supervisors, if you'd like to receive this via email, please let me know, & I'll add you to the list so you receive it sooner!.

Administrative Grants are due by May 1. Please give Laurie a call if you have any questions.

Rolling River Trailer Season Upcoming.....Trailer Training ???????

We have snow for a change and the Rolling Rivers Trailers are hibernating. Soon though it will be trailer season and. Some of you have already requested training. If you would like a training session your area, contact David Martin 444-4253 or damartin@mt.gov.

Realtors Workshop was a huge success:

Excellent job Barbara Berry, Stillwater CD and Dave Martin, DNRC!!! Over 50 realtors for the Stillwater County and Carbon County areas attended this workshop. The agenda included discussions on water rights, floodplains, ponds, weeds, pasture management, 310 stream permitting, and the rolling rivers trailer. The attendee surveys stated "this was the best continuing education workshop they have ever attended". This is an excellent example of CD's reaching out to the community to help educate everyone people on Conservation.

The Watershed Planning and Assistance Grant will have new funds available beginning July 1, 2008. The application deadline for the first round is Thursday, May 15, 2008. We are doing some final edits on the criteria for the new funding cycle. These will be posted on our website by next week. We will announce when the new criteria is posted through the CD and MWCC list-serves.

No Adverse Impact (NAI) Conference HUGELY Successful:

Congratulations to the Big Hole Watershed Committee and the Beaver Head Conservation District for a very successful conference. Over 100 people attended this conference learned a great deal on No Adverse Impact. It really a common sense concept... address development from a positive side by addressing what kind of impact it may have on the resource, existing development, flood plain, or other key issues identified locally. For example, if a development is proposed for a streamside location, the development would have to show that there is no impact to existing development, no increase in erosion potential, or flood elevations. It is an excellent way to avoid negative impacts to existing development or conditions. And the best thing about it, it's and excellent way to avoid legal issues and lawsuits. To view the presentations and other literature, [click here](#)!



310 Workshop in Park County:

The workshop held in Livingston on February 26 was a good one. Topics covered were; Procedures & Administration, Perspectives of the FWP, perspectives of the COE, Will this project impact the Floodplain?, Violation Procedures, and then a trip out to the field for a Mock Inspection on a 310 Violation, and then concluded back in the conference room. Back in the conference room, the attendees split into two groups and actually worked through completing a team inspection report. The workshop generated excellent questions and ideas on how to process the 310 violation.

CAPACITY BUILDING:

As capacity building is a continual thing that should be worked on, evaluating your board is an equally important thing. Attached is a Board Self-Evaluation Questionnaire... "A Tool for Improving Governance Practice for Voluntary and Community Organizations."

I found this in the files and feel this may be a good worksheet to work through individually. It is really meant to be a tool, and to take away feedback as a positive thing to look at.

TRAINING:

Conservation District Continuing Education Program:

The DNRC CDB is currently developing an online continuing education program for supervisors and CD's. My goal is to place power point presentations as well as pdf versions of the presentations online. These presentations will be downloadable, with the idea that they can be presented at board meetings or viewed at home by supervisors. This will be a work in progress, and will continually be added to in the future. The CARRD website is being updated, so hopefully in the near future, we will begin to add training modules as they are developed. I'll keep you posted.

Also, if anyone is willing to help review/comment on the training modules, please email Karl at kchrtistians@mt.gov

WORK PLANS:

Annual and Long Range Planning:

Planning is a key component to success. But why Plan you ask? Does anyone ever really use em? Well, it's simple. Those who fail to plan, plan to fail. And yes, plans are the direction book for what is to be done throughout the year.

A well formulated annual/long-range plan will provide direction for conservation district programs for the two, three, five-year length of the plan. The planning process, in addition to the plan, is useful to district supervisors and their staff as it encourages identification of the district's purpose, goals, and activities. The plan also informs the public and cooperating government agencies of the district's focus and activities for the coming years.

Planning steps:

1. Establish a planning Committee to coordinate the development of the plan. It is suggested there should be no more than 5 people.
2. Write a mission statement. Refer to the general provisions of Land Resources and Use of the statute for info on why CD's were established.
3. Hold a public meeting to which various agencies, local organizations, and the public are invited to brainstorm resource issues and areas of concern which the district should address in the next few years.
4. Prioritize resource issues:
5. For each resource issue:
 - a) Identify alternative strategies or actions..
 - b) Select appropriate actions..
 - c) Identify tasks to be carried out ..
 - d) Specify staff and board responsibilities and time frames ..
 - e) organize plan into a calendar ..
6. Send your draft plan out for public review and put a public notice in the newspaper requesting comments on the draft plan.
7. Revise the plan according to the public comment received.
8. Disseminate the final plan.
9. Implement the plan
10. Periodically evaluate the plan and update as necessary.
11. Write the annual report.

District supervisors should be directly involved in brainstorming resource issues, prioritize those issues which the district will address, and selecting the strategies.. The planning committee could be used to organize the public meeting, summarize the suggestions from the public meeting, work with the full board to prioritize resources issues, identify all of the necessary tasks, meet with the full board to assign task responsibilities and approve time frames, and assemble a distribution list

for the draft and final plan, oversee the evaluation and revision of the plan, and if necessary, and oversee the writing of the annual report.

A note from the CDB:

- Some of you may have just gone through updating your annual plan and/or your long range plan. Can you **please send me a hard copy, or email me an electronic copy**. The CDB staff here would like to review those so we can keep abreast of what is occurring in the field.
- The CDB staff is will to help moderate your plan development/update meeting. Just give Dave Martin or Karl Christians a shout ahead of time so we can get you on our schedule!!

Oops File!!

Always watch your backside!!!!



CDB Staff

Conservation Districts Bureau (CDB) Staff ... here to assist you!!

The CDB is staffed up and available to help you any way we can. Please call us or email us anytime for assistance or questions. Got a big Project? Maybe we can help with that too!

Meet & Greet the Staff:

Next month, we'll focus on Scott Kaiser!!

Calendar

Deadlines:

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| May 15: | RRGL Grant Applications |
| July: | Watershed Planning & Assistance Grant Applications |
| Anytime: | Education Mini Grants |
| Anytime: | 310 Legal and Technical Assistance |

Contact:

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